



The Cleveland Museum of Art

February 21, 1996

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THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART OFFERS RETROSPECTIVE ON GROUNDBREAKING EXPERIMENTAL FILMMAKER

By Brakhage: Three Decades of Personal Cinema

Sunday, March 3, Wednesday, March 6, and Sunday, March 10, 1996

Admission \$4, CMA members \$3.

Since the early fifties, Stan Brakhage (b. 1933 in Kansas City, MO) has documented his life and obsessions in rigorous, painterly short movies that constitute one of the most remarkable bodies of work in all of film. In a short March series, organized by The American Federation of Arts, the Cleveland Museum of Art surveys the major works from the first three decades of Brakhage's continuing, 40-year career, with 26 movies divided among three separate programs.

Film program coordinator John Ewing: "Brakhage's cinema is personal in various ways. He crafts his movies himself, photographing them, editing them, even etching his name on them. Sometimes he paints or pastes objects directly onto the film stock. His subjects range from the everyday (nature, family, friends) to the abstract (perception and the art of seeing). But his major concern is light—how it defines colors and objects at particular moments, how it triggers the mind's eye. Brakhage's films are pure, subjective, autobiographical, and almost always silent; they are also breathtakingly beautiful." The American Federation of Arts media arts exhibitions are partially supported by the National Endowment for the Arts and the New York State Council on the Arts.

Sun/3 Mar., 3:30 *By Brakhage: Program I* (USA, 1954-79, b&w/color, most silent, 84 min.). Six Stan Brakhage short films that each focus on one subject, from New York's Third Avenue El to the birth of Brakhage's first child. Includes *Desistfilm* (1954); *The Wonder Ring* (1955); *Window Water Baby Moving* (1959); *Sirius Remembered* (1959); *The Weir-Falcon Saga* (1970); and *Creation* (1979).

Wed/6 Mar., 7:30 *By Brakhage: Program II* (USA, 1954-1973, b&w/color, most silent, 82 min.). Ten Stan Brakhage short films in which conventional photographic imagery is abstracted: *The Way to Shadow Garden* (1954); *Thigh Line Lyre Triangular* (1961); *Dog Star Man: Part II* (1963); *The Horseman, the Woman and the Moth* (1968); *The Peaceable Kingdom* (1971); *The Process* (1972); *The Wold-Shadow* (1972); *Sexual Meditation: Room with View* (1971); *Sexual Meditation: Hotel* (1971); and *Sexual Meditation: Open Field* (1973).

Sun/10 Mar., 3:30 *By Brakhage: Program III* (USA, 1962-79, b&w/color, most silent, 84 min.). Ten dazzling abstract short films by Stan Brakhage: *Blue Moses* (1962); *Mothlight* (1963); *Fire of Waters* (1965); *Angels'* (1971); *The Riddle of Lumen* (1972); *Aquariem* (1974); *Sol* (1974); *He Was Born, He Suffered, He Died* (1974); *Nightmare Series* (1978); and *I (Roman Numeral One)* (1979).